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**STUDIES OF GENETIC VARIATION IN THE AIDS VIRUS:  
RELEVANCE TO DISEASE PATHOGENESIS,  
ANTI-VIRAL THERAPY, AND VACCINE DEVELOPMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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HIV-1 and HIV-2 represent two distinct groups of human immunodeficiency viruses known to cause AIDS in infected individuals (3,11,12,21,43). While HIV-1 is the causative agent of epidemic AIDS worldwide, HIV-2 has generally been restricted to West Africa (4,7,13,28,31). Numerous isolates of HIV-1 and HIV-2 have been obtained and their biological and molecular properties characterized (1,3,12,23,43,54). Nucleotide sequence analysis shows that HIV-2 is only distantly related to HIV-1 (23), while it is more closely related to two primate retroviruses, SIV<sub>MAC</sub> and SIV<sub>SM</sub>, which cause an AIDS-like disease in captive macaques (8,14,27). Although genetically divergent, prototype HIV-1 and HIV-2 viruses share similar overall genomic organization and have similar biological properties, which include their propensity for rapid genetic change (18,45,54), their host cell tropism, their cytopathic effect on T-cell cultures and peripheral blood mononuclear cells *in vitro*, and their ability to form syncytia with CD4-bearing target cells (12,43). In fact, the majority of HIV-1 and HIV-2 strains isolated from patients with immunodeficiency disease have been shown to cause cell fusion and the formation of multinucleated giant cells in culture. This represents a hallmark of productive viral infection in tissue culture and accounts for the profound *in vitro* cytopathic effects of HIV (25,39,52). In contrast to HIV-1 and HIV-2 isolated from clinically ill individuals, natural infection of African green monkeys by SIV occurs with high prevalence in East and West Africa but does not lead to immunodeficiency. In addition, there is growing evidence that the biologic properties of HIV-1 *in vivo* may differ significantly from tissue culture adapted strains. Thus, in order to characterize HIVs and SIVs as they exist *in vivo*, the goals for year 03 of this contract were: (i) to characterize by genetic and biologic analysis an HIV-2 strain obtained during year 02 of this contract which showed attenuated virulence *in vitro* and *in vivo*; (ii) to develop PCR approaches that would allow, for the first time, the direct identification, cloning, and sequence analysis of SIV and HIV from uncultured blood of West African green monkeys and humans West African green monkeys and humans (all previous clones of SIV<sub>AGM</sub> have been derived from East African green monkeys); (iii) to obtain by direct lambda phage

cloning full-length transfection competent clones of HIV-1 from uncultured human brain tissue.

#### Molecular Characterization of HIV-2/ST

In contrast to the prototype pathogenic HIV-1 and HIV-2 viruses, we and others have recently isolated less cytopathic strains of HIV-1 and HIV-2 which exhibit markedly different biological properties (2,9,16,34,36,50). These particular isolates cause little or no cell death in susceptible target cells, fail to induce cell fusion with CD4-bearing immortalized T-cell lines, exhibit a restricted host cell tropism with a preference for PBMC and/or macrophages, and are often derived from asymptomatic individuals. While their *in vitro* biological differences are well-documented, the genetic changes responsible for their attenuated phenotype are not understood. In order to elucidate determinants of HIV pathogenicity, we have thus begun to molecularly dissect a non-fusogenic and non-cytopathic HIV-2 isolate, termed HIV-2/ST, which was obtained from a healthy Senegalese prostitute as part of year 02 work for this contract (34). Although this virus replicated to high titers in tissue culture, it infected cells at a slower rate compared to cytopathic strains of HIV-1 and HIV-2, and caused little or no cell killing and fusion. This was the case despite the fact that its external envelope glycoprotein was cleaved correctly, transported to the cell surface, and shown to bind to a specific epitope on CD4, which was recognized by OKT4a but not OKT4 antibodies (34). HIV-2/ST therefore appeared to bind to the CD4 molecule analogous to other HIVs, but it failed to fuse with CD4-bearing target cells suggesting that its infectivity was greatly retarded at the level of cell entry (34).

Since HIV "isolates" generally represent complex mixtures of genotypically-distinct viruses, and since the biological phenotype of any HIV culture depends on the sum of the properties of each genotypic variant (22,45), we first attempted to isolate a molecular clone, which was both transfection-competent and representative of the *in vitro* properties of its parental virus. We therefore obtained three full-length proviral clones ( $\lambda$ JSP4-27,  $\lambda$ JSP4-32, and  $\lambda$ JSP4-34) from a genomic library of a biologically-cloned high producer cell line, termed ST/B12, and subsequently transfected them into the neoplastic T-cell lines SupT1 (49) and

CEMx174 (29,47). Reverse transcriptase activity was detected in supernatants of cultures transfected with  $\lambda$ JSP4-27 as early as five days post-transfection, while  $\lambda$ JSP4-32 and  $\lambda$ JSP4-34 transfected cultures revealed no signs of viral replication, indicating that these proviruses were replication-defective. Immunofluorescence analysis further confirmed the presence of virus expressing cells in  $\lambda$ JSP4-27 transfected cultures, but failed to identify virus mediated cell fusion. Western blot analysis of purified JSP4-27 virions demonstrated a protein profile similar to that of the parental HIV-2/ST virus. To facilitate subsequent transfection experiments and to allow the direct comparison of JSP4-27 to other transfection-competent HIV-2 plasmid constructs, we sub-cloned the proviral insert of  $\lambda$ JSP4-27 into the plasmid vector pSP65 (Figure 1A).

To test whether the transfection-derived JSP4-27 virions were infectious, filtered supernatants of plasmid-transfected cultures were transmitted to uninfected SupT1 and CEMx174 cells. The results showed that cell-free transmission of JSP4-27 virions was readily and reproducibly demonstrable. However, infection and spread in culture, particularly in SupT1 cells, occurred slowly and with considerable delay. These results were confirmed and extended in comparative studies with a transfection-derived, cytopathic HIV-2/ROD strain, termed SL1 (38). While transfection of the SL1 provirus resulted in >90% infected SupT1 or CEMx174 cultures within three to four days post-transfection, JSP4-27 transfected cultures reached only 10% infectivity in the same time period, which indicated the same reduced ability to spread in culture that had been observed for the parental HIV-2/ST virus (34). Similarly, the transfection-derived JSP4-27 cultures did not form syncytia upon cocultivation with several CD4-bearing T-cell lines, including SupT1, CEM, H9 and CEMx174 cells, whereas SL1 infected cultures produced numerous and large syncytia, as well as a profound cytopathic effect, with these same target cells (Figure 1B). These data thus showed that the JSP4-27 provirus was replication-competent and infectious, and exhibited the same non-fusogenic and non-cytopathic properties as previously described for the parental virus (34).

Having identified and characterized the biological features of a molecular clone of HIV-2/ST, we next sequenced its entire genome. The complete nucleotide sequence of the JSP4-27 provirus is depicted in Figure 2. The viral genome is 9,672 bp in length and exhibits an overall genomic organization of 5'LTR-gag-pol-central region-env-nef-3'LTR, which is identical to that of other cytopathic HIV-2 and SIV<sub>MAC</sub> proviruses. It contains all major open reading frames characteristic for HIV-2, including vpx which is present in HIV-2 and SIV<sub>MAC</sub> viruses but not in HIV-1 (17,26,32,53), and vpr which is present in HIV-1, HIV-2 and SIV<sub>MAC</sub> but not in SIV<sub>AGM</sub> viruses (19). Like other HIV/SIV proviruses, HIV-2/ST is flanked by LTR sequences which are known to regulate viral gene expression. Sequence comparison with other HIV-2 LTRs showed that regulatory elements, like the tata box, the polyadenylation site, core enhancer sequences, Sp1 binding sites, and the tat responsive region are all present in HIV-2/ST and that their sequences are highly conserved. The HIV-2/ST LTR is of similar length, and there are no major deletions or insertions which would distinguish it from the LTRs of other cytopathic HIV-2 viruses (data not shown).

Comparison of the deduced amino acid sequence of the HIV-2/ST reading frames suggested that they all encoded full-length and functional proteins, with the exception of the vpr gene. This open reading frame was found to contain an in-frame TAA stop codon which truncates the vpr protein prematurely after the first 32 amino acid residues. Since the JSP4-27 provirus is fully replication-competent, it can be concluded that the vpr gene product is not required for *in vitro* replication of HIV-2. This conclusion was confirmed by the biological analysis of a second vpr-deficient HIV-2 provirus independently constructed in our laboratory (J.C. Kappes and B.H. Hahn, unpublished), as well as by the findings of others (15). Moreover, since vpr-deficient proviruses of HIV-2 are also cytopathic and fusogenic, it is unlikely that the lack of a functional vpr gene in HIV-2/ST is responsible for its attenuated phenotype.

Pairwise sequence alignments of JSP4-27 to other cytopathic strains of HIV-2 similarly

revealed no genetic features unique for HIV-2/ST. Comparison of HIV-2/ST and HIV-2/ROD demonstrated an overall sequence divergence of 11%, which is within the expected range of genetic variability observed among geographically-distant isolates of HIV-2 (Tables 1 and 2). Three other recently reported HIV-2 viruses, HIV-2/ISY derived from a Gambian individual with AIDS (1,18), HIV-2/NIH<sub>2</sub> derived from an AIDS patient from Guinea Bissau (54), and HIV-2/GH derived from an AIDS patient from Ghana (24,30) differ from HIV-2/ROD (Cape Verde Islands, refs. 12 and 23) by 11%, 12%, and 12%, respectively. Among all these viruses, the Senegalese HIV-2/ST virus was found to be most closely related to the Gambian isolate HIV-2/ISY, which shared 90% of its nucleotide sequence with HIV-2/ST.

Since infectivity, syncytia formation, and cell fusion are viral properties which are mediated by the viral *env* gene, we examined this gene in particular with respect to sequence differences unique for HIV-2/ST. An alignment of the deduced HIV-2/ST *env* sequence to those of six other cytopathic and fusogenic HIV-2 and SIV viruses is depicted in Figure 3. Overall, the size of the various *env* sequences compared is approximately the same. In contrast to other HIV-2 and SIV<sub>MAC</sub> viruses, JSP4-27 contains no in-frame stop codon in its transmembrane envelope domain (Figure 3). This is consistent with the presence of a 43kD rather than a 32kD transmembrane glycoprotein on Western blots of JSP4-27 derived virions (Figure 1B), and is distinct from the protein profile of the HIV-2/ST parental strain which comprises a mixture of viruses with both full-length as well as truncated transmembrane proteins (34). Pairwise sequence alignment shows that the HIV-2/ST *env* sequence differs from other HIV-2 and SIV envelopes to the same degree as they differ from each other, with amino acid sequences varying between 16% and 30% (Table 1). 25 of 32 cysteine residues, including 22 of 23 located in the extracellular domain, are conserved among all viruses, which indicate a highly conserved envelope structure. In addition, HIV-2/ST contains 28 potential N-linked glycosylation sites which are arranged in a pattern similar to that of other viruses, and which also include one highly conserved glycosylation site previously shown to be critical for



HIV-1 infectivity (51). Finally, the HIV-2/ST *env* gene contains highly variable regions which correspond closely in distribution and size to similar hypervariable regions in the other *env* gene sequences.

Although a three-dimensional structure has not been determined for any HIV or SIV envelope glycoproteins, there are certain envelope domains whose functions have been characterized by mutagenesis analysis. These include the putative CD4 binding domain (35,37), the envelope precursor cleavage site (40), and the viral fusion sequence (5,6,20,35). Since sequence changes in any one of these domains could alter the fusogenic properties of a virus (35), we analyzed the envelope sequence of HIV-2/ST for particular mutations in these areas. No changes, or only conservative amino acid changes were found in an envelope domain of JSP4-27 that corresponds to the HIV-1 envelope region previously identified to be involved in CD4 binding (37). HIV-2/ST also contained an apparently functional primary envelope precursor cleavage site, with a recognition sequence (RNKR) identical to that of three other fusogenic HIV-2 or SIV viruses (compare Figure 3). In contrast to these viruses, however, HIV-2/ST was found to differ in 2 of 16 highly conserved amino acid residues at the N-terminus of the transmembrane envelope glycoprotein which, as shown by site-directed mutagenesis, contains the viral fusion domain (5). The mutations include an alanine to threonine change involving amino acid residue 517 (position 12 after the cleavage site), and a serine to alanine change involving amino acid residue 521 (position 16 after the cleavage site). Only one other fusogenic HIV-2 virus, HIV-2/ISY, contained these same changes. However, this virus exhibited three additional mutations in this same envelope area (compare Figure 3). Since the fusion domain is generally highly conserved among cytopathic HIV and SIV viruses (5), we considered the possibility that the non-fusogenic properties of HIV-2/ST resulted from these mutations.

To determine if the observed amino acid substitutions in the HIV-2/ST envelope fusion region were likely responsible for the impaired cytopathic properties of this virus, we examined

two fusogenic variants of HIV-2/ST, termed ST/24.1C and ST/24.2C (Figure 4). Both fusogenic strains were originally derived from a biologically-cloned sub-culture of HIV-2/ST, termed ST/24, which produced non-cytopathic and non-fusogenic virions biologically indistinguishable from the parental HIV-2/ST isolate (34). Following serial cell-free transmissions of ST/24 supernatant to uninfected SupT1 cells, large and numerous syncytia were observed on two independent occasions, which indicated the emergence of fusogenic progeny virus in the culture. Two cell lines were subsequently established (ST/24.1C and ST/24.2C) and shown to produce virions with fusogenic and cytopathic properties similar to prototype HIV-1 and HIV-2 viruses (J.A. Hoxie, et al., in preparation). Moreover, these cell lines were confirmed to be infected with HIV-2/ST by Southern blot analysis, which revealed no changes in their BamHI, NheI, HindIII, and PstI cleavage patterns as compared to ST/24. In order to identify the molecular basis for the phenotypical change in these variants and to determine whether a direct mutation of the viral fusion sequence had occurred, we amplified the envelope fusion domain of these cultures using the polymerase chain reaction (46).

Two oligonucleotide primers (30 mers) were designed to allow the amplification of a 544 bp envelope fragment from virally-infected cellular DNA, which included the putative precursor cleavage site as well as the envelope fusion region (Figures 5 and 6). Both primers were synthesized according to the JSP4-27 sequence, however, sequence changes were introduced so as to accommodate a BamHI site in the 5' amplimer and a Pst I site in the 3' amplimer (primer 1: 5'AGAATTGGGGGATCCTAAATTGATAGAAGT 3'; and primer 2: 5'GCTATTTAATTTCTGCAGTTCATACATGTT 3'). Total genomic DNA of ST/24, ST/24.1C, ST/24.2C, as well as ST/B12 as a control, was amplified using these primers. 100 µl of reaction mixture contained 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3, 50 mM KCl, 1.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.01% gelatine, 200 mM of each deoxynucleotide triphosphate (dNTP), 10 pM of each primer, 2.5 U of Taq polymerase and 1 µg of high molecular weight DNA. Samples were subjected to 45 amplification cycles, consisting of a denaturing step at 94°C for 90 seconds, a primer-annealing step at 50°C for 90 seconds, and a primer extension

step at 72°C for 135 seconds. Amplified envelope fragments were purified, cleaved with BamHI and PstI, and subsequently cloned into M13. Ten individual M13 clones per amplified DNA preparation were then isolated, and each clone was sequenced in the region, which corresponded to the N-terminus of the transmembrane envelope domain. An alignment of these sequences is depicted in Figure 5.

All 10 M13 clones derived from ST/B12 contained sequences identical to JSP4-27, which indicated that the PCR amplification procedure was reliable and did not cause frequent misincorporations of nucleotides in this particular DNA template. Sequence comparison of amplified fragments from cell line ST/24 demonstrated no differences among the individual M13 clones, but revealed 4 nucleotide point mutations between these ST/24 sequences and the JSP4-27 reference sequence. In fact, all ST/24 derived viruses, including the cytopathic and fusogenic ones, exhibited these same four nucleotide sequence differences, as well as the threonine and alanine substitutions previously identified in the envelope fusion region of JSP4-27. The results thus confirmed that the observed fusion sequence mutations were representative of all HIV-2/ST strains, regardless of their origin and biological phenotype. Interestingly, eight of nine M13 clones representing ST/24.1C and five of ten clones representing ST/24.2C contained additional point mutations, which predicted three amino acid sequence changes with respect to the ST/24 sequence (Figure 6). The presence of these mutations within the amplified material identifies the ST/24.1C and ST/24.2C viral strains as mixtures which comprise the parental ST/24 virus as well as additional genotypic variants. These newly-generated, genotypical variants must be responsible for the phenotypical changes seen in the ST/24.1C and ST/24.2C cultures. However, the genetic changes which are of biological significance do not appear to occur in the envelope fusion domain.

While these studies were in progress, the biological properties of the HIV-2/ST envelope gene products were also analyzed in a eukaryotic expression system (42). Vaccinia virus expressed JSP4-27 envelope glycoproteins were compared to that of prototype HIV-1 and

HIV-2 viruses. While the processing, expression, and transport to the cell surface appeared to be unaltered, vaccinia virus-produced JSP4-27 envelope glycoproteins failed to form syncytia with CD4-bearing Hela cells. Since no other HIV-2 proteins were produced in this system, these results strongly suggested that the JSP4-27 envelope glycoproteins were primarily responsible for its non-fusogenic and non-cytopathic phenotype (42). Based on these results as well as the sequence data, we conclude that the non-fusogenic and attenuated properties of HIV-2/ST are indeed a function of its envelope gene products, although, the causative genetic defect appears not to involve mutations within the envelope fusion domain.

There are several mechanisms other than a direct alteration of the fusion sequence that could result in the biological changes observed in HIV-2/ST. These include mutations that affect envelope/CD4 interactions, mutations that cause differences in envelope glycosylation, mutations that require additional cell surface molecules to facilitate virus-cell fusion, as well as mutations that reduce the stability of envelope glycoprotein complexes on the cell surface. In fact, several naturally-occurring as well as genetically-engineered immunodeficiency viruses have been described, that are altered in their fusogenic or cytopathic properties because of one of these mechanisms. For example, possible differences in the binding affinity of HIV and SIV envelope glycoproteins to the CD4 receptor have been suggested by the finding that 25-fold more soluble CD4 is necessary to block infectivity of prototype HIV-2 viruses compared to HIV-1 (10). It is possible that the HIV-2/ST envelope glycoprotein binds the CD4 molecule with an even lower affinity, which would be expected to influence subsequent steps of viral entry, including membrane fusion and penetration. Another mechanism known to cause attenuation of virulence in naturally-occurring retroviruses involves differences in post-translational modifications of envelope glycoproteins. Mullins and coworkers showed that the pathogenic determinants of an immunodeficiency-causing FeLV-FAIDS virus were dependent on the processing of particular envelope oligosaccharides (44). Since HIV-2/ST differs in number and distribution of its potential N-linked envelope glycosylation sites from other

cytopathic HIV-2's, and since size differences between the exterior envelope glycoproteins of fusogenic and non-fusogenic HIV-2/ST strains have been observed (J.A. Hoxie, personal communication), a biologically-significant change in the sugar composition of the HIV-2/ST envelope cannot be excluded. Finally, a requirement of accessory molecules for virus-cell fusion represents still another potential mechanism to influence retroviral cytopathicity. Studies involving SIV<sub>MAC</sub> recently revealed that this virus has a restricted host-cell range which comprises only a subset of CD4+ T-cell lines (29,33). While highly infectious and cytopathic for HUT78 and H9 cells, SIV<sub>MAC</sub> does not fuse with CD4-bearing SupT1 cells. Moreover, SIV<sub>MAC</sub> infects SupT1 cells only with considerable delay. It is thus conceivable, that SIV<sub>MAC</sub> requires a surface molecule(s) in addition to CD4 to establish a productive infection in certain human T-cell lines. Since its infection kinetics and lack of cytopathic effect in SupT1 cells very much resemble those of HIV-2/ST, it is not unreasonable to speculate that HIV-2/ST might similarly require an additional cell surface molecule(s) for efficient cell fusion or penetration.

The availability of cytopathic variants of HIV-2/ST will be instrumental for future experiments designed to define the exact molecular determinants involved in HIV-2/ST attenuation. Molecular clones representing the fusogenic and cytopathic HIV-2/ST strains are expected to exhibit much less genetic divergence with respect to JSP4-27 than do unrelated HIV-2 viruses, like HIV-2/ROD or HIV-2/ISY. Therefore, a comparative sequence analysis is more likely to identify biologically-important differences, and the construction of chimeras between attenuated and cytopathic clones will be greatly facilitated. The fact that cytopathic and fusogenic ST/24 mutants evolved by cell free passage on two independent occasions indicates the presence of strong selective pressures for cytopathic and fusogenic viruses *in vitro*. It is possible that similar pressures are also present *in vivo* which may favor the emergence of more virulent strains in certain HIV infected individuals over time (2,9,50).

#### Identification and molecular characterization of a novel subgroup of SIV<sub>AGM</sub> Viruses

Wild caught African green monkeys (AGM) from East and West Africa are infected with

SIV viruses at a high prevalence rate (30-60%) in contrast to Asian macaques which are not naturally infected (14,31). Because of this, it has been speculated that AGMs could harbor viruses that served as the progenitor of human immunodeficiency viruses acquired through cross-species transmission. Recent sequence analyses of a sooty mangabey virus has shown it to be most closely related to HIV-2 (27). To date, isolation and/or molecular characterization of SIV<sub>AGM</sub> from West Africa has not been reported. Of additional interest is the fact that wild caught AGMs, unlike experimentally infected rhesus macaques, do not appear to develop disease as a result of SIV infection. Because a molecular analysis of SIV<sub>AGM</sub> from West Africa could provide important information relevant to the evolutionary relationships of all HIV and SIV viruses, and because the biologic properties of these viruses are likely to be enlightening, we developed a PCR-based approach for cloning these viruses directly from uncultured AGM peripheral blood lymphocytes. Figures 7 and 8 illustrated the "nested" PCR technique that we developed which accomplishes this. Using two sequential 30 cycle rounds of amplification, first with an outer primer set and then by an inner set containing cloning sites for the M13 polylinker, we successfully cloned SIV<sub>AGM</sub> from four out of four seropositive AGMs and from zero of two seronegative animals. Figures 9, 10 and 11 show the nucleotide sequences of the amplified regions of the polymerase gene and their relationship to SIVs from other simian species and subspecies. These results are important for the following reasons: (i) they demonstrate for the first time the utility of the generic (universal) "nested" PCR approach for detecting and cloning novel groups of viruses whose sequence divergence from known viruses precludes conventional hybridization and cloning approaches; (ii) they identify the SIV strain infecting feral West African AGMs (sabeus) and show that this virus group is not closely related to HIV-1 or HIV-2; (iii) they provide a rapid method for obtaining molecular probes of novel viruses for full-length lambda phage cloning and other kinds of nucleic acid analyses.

Molecular Cloning and Analysis of Replication Competent HIV-1 Proviruses from Uncultured Human Brain in AIDS Dementia Complex

All previous full-length replication-competent proviral clones of HIV-1 have been obtained from cell cultures of amplified virus, due to the low abundance of viral DNA in chronically infected individuals. Because such virus strains may be altered be a result of *in vitro* propagation, we sought to molecularly clone and genetically and biologically characterize full-length replication competent HIV-1 proviruses directly from uncultured human brain tissue of a patient with AIDS Dementia Complex (ADC). Objectives were (i) to generate replication competent proviral clones from uncultured human tissue thereby allowing an analysis of genome organization and gene structure-function relationships of virus not subjected to *in vitro* selection pressures, (ii) to generate transfection-derived genetically defined HIV-1 strains without interim cell culture for analysis of virus biological properties, replicative DNA intermediate forms, integration status, and the possible existence of defective and/or helper forms, (iii) to compare and characterize genotypic variation of proviral clones obtained by direct lambda phage cloning as compared to clones obtained by PCR amplification. For these studies, high molecular weight DNA from a brain specimen obtained at necropsy was subjected to lambda phage cloning and 10 HIV-1 proviral clones out of  $8 \times 10^6$  recombinants were obtained (Figure 12). These proviral clones contained integrated and unintegrated forms, forms with one or two LTRs, and genomes with large deletions and self-integrated, reversed LTR sequences. Eight HIV-1 proviral clones (in lambda) and 11 PCR derived clones from the same brain were sequenced in a 525 bp hypervariable envelope region. All 19 clones were highly related yet distinct with nucleotide variation between 0.1 and 0.3%. Four proviral clones in lambda were determined to be full-length by restriction mapping and two of these were shown to be transfection-competent in Cos-1 cells and replication competent in human T cells and monocytes after cell free passage. We have found in preliminary studies that these molecularly derived strains of HIV-1 from uncultured human brain replicate to higher levels in monocyte-macrophages than other putative monocyte tropic viruses and therefore they represent important reagents for characterizing monocyte tropic viral determinants at a

molecular level. The genomic organization, structure-function characteristics of specific gene products, and the biological properties of these HIV-1 proviral clones are under study.



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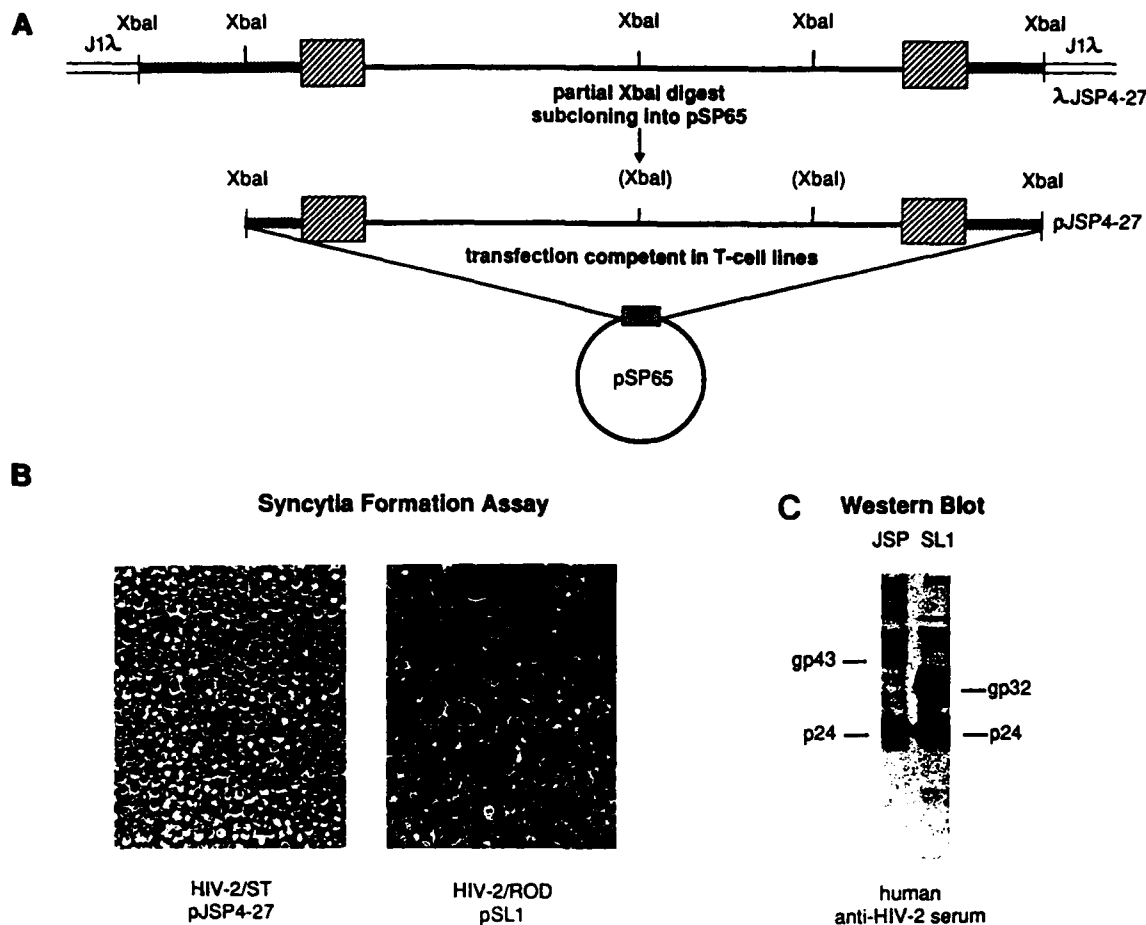
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**Figure 1. A: Construction of a replication-competent HIV-2/ST plasmid clone .** The construction scheme used to generate a transfection-competent plasmid subclone of HIV-2/ST is outlined.  $\lambda$ JSP4-27 (34) was partially cleaved with Xba I to remove phage arms (double lines) and flanking cellular sequences (hatched lines), and the resulting 14 Kb provirus-containing fragment was subsequently subcloned into pSP65.

**B: Biological comparison of HIV-2/ST and HIV-2/ROD derived, genetically-pure viral strains.** CEMx174 cultures, productively-infected (>90%) with JSP4-27 (HIV-2/ST) and SL1 (HIV-2/ROD) respectively, were examined in syncytia formation assays and by Western blot analysis. The left side panels depict the complete lack of syncytium formation upon co-cultivation of JSP4-27-producing CEMx174 cells with uninfected CEM cells, while numerous and large syncytia are generated upon co-cultivation of the same uninfected CEM cells with SL1-infected CEMx174 cells (identical results were obtained with H9, SupT1 and CEMx174 cells). Syncytia formation was monitored 18 hours after cocultivation. The right side panel depicts the Western blot profile of cell-free virions derived from these same transfection-derived cultures and demonstrates differences in the size of their transmembrane envelope glycoproteins.

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-->R
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R<---->U5. 200
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U5 <--1 PBS
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400
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4100
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Figure 2: Complete nucleotide sequence of the HIV-2/ST proviral genome. 9,672 bp of nucleotide sequence are depicted along with the deduced amino acid sequences of the corresponding viral proteins. The sequence starts at the 5' cap site and ends with the 3' polyadenylation site of the viral RNA. The primer binding site (complementary to the tRNA<sub>met</sub>), the polypurin tract (PPT), as well as short inverted repeats which flank the LTRs are underlined. Core enhancer sequences (E), SP1 binding sites (Sp1), the tata box (TATAA) and the polyadenylation site signal (AATAAA) are shown. The U3/R and R/U5 boundaries, as well as the splice donor (SD) and splice acceptor (SA) sites, have been determined in analogy with HIV-2/ROD (23). The vpr open reading frame contains a premature in-frame TAA stop codon at position 5777, which is indicated by three asterisks. Sequence analysis was performed by the chemical degradation method according to Maxam and Gilbert (41) as well as by the dideoxynucleotide-chain termination method according to Sanger (48). The nucleotide sequence of JSP4-27 has been submitted to the AIDS Sequence Data Base, Los Alamos National Laboratories, as well as to Genebank and EMBL libraries.

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2900 2900 3000  
TTAGAACCATTGAGAAAGCAACCCGGATATCATCTCTCAGTACATGGATGATATCTTGTATAGCCAGCGACAGGACAGATTAGAACATGACAGAGTGGTCTCGAGCTAAAGGAA  
LeuGluProPheArgLysAlaAsnProAspIleLeuLeuGlnTyrMetAspAspIleLeuIleAlaSerAspArgThrAspLeuGluHisAspArgValValLeuGlnLeuLysGlu  
3100  
CTTCTAAATGGCCTGGGATTTTCCACCCAGATGAGAAGTTCACAAAAGACCTCCATACCAATGGATGGGCTATGAACCTGGGCACTAAATGGAAGCTGCAAGAATACAAATGGCC  
LeuLeuAsnGlyLeuGlyPheSerThrProAspGluLysPheGlnLysAspProProTyrGlnTrpMetGlyTyrGluLeuTrpProThrLysTrpLysLeuGlnArgIleGlnLeuPro  
3200  
CAAAAGGAAGTATGGACAGTCAATGACATCCAAAAGCTGGTGGGTGCTCTAAATGGGAGCAGCAAAATCTACCCAGGATTAAGACAGCAAACTTATGTAGGTTAATCAGAGGAAAATG  
GlnLysGluValTrpThrValAsnAspIleGlnLysLeuValGlyValLeuAsnTrpAlaAlaGlnIleTyrProGlyIleLysThrArgAsnLeuCysArgLeuIleArgGlyLysMet  
3300  
ACACTCACAAGAGGTTACAGTGGACAGAATTAGCAGAAGCGGAAGTACAGAAAACAAATCATCTTAAGCCAGGAACAAGAAGGATGCTATTACCAAGAGGAAAAGGAGCTAGAAGCA  
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3400  
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ThrValGlnLysAspGlnAspAsnGlnTrpThrTyrLysIleHisGlnGlyGlyLysIleLeuLysValGlyLysTyrAlaLysValLysAsnThrHisThrAsnGlyValArgLeuLeu  
3500 3600  
GCACAAGTAGTTCAAAAATAGGAAAAGAACCTAGTCACTTTGGGGACGAATACCAAAATTTCCCTACCAGTAGAAGAGATACCTGGGAAACAGTGGTGGGATAACTACTGGCAAGTG  
AlaGlnValValGlnIleGlyLysGluAlaLeuValIleTrpGlyArgIleProLysPheHisLeuProValGluArgAspThrTrpGluGlnTrpTrpAspAsnTyrTrpGlnVal  
3700  
ACATGGATCCGAGCTGGGACTTCATCTACCCCGCCACTGGTCAGATAGTATTTAACTGGTGAAGATCCCATACAGGCGCAGAAACCTTCTACACAGATGGATCCTGCAATAG  
ThrTrpIleProAspTrpAspPheIleSerThrProProLeuValArgLeuValPheAsnLeuValGlnValGlnAlaLysAspLysIleLeuGlyAlaGluThrTyrThrArgGlySerCysGln  
3800  
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GlnSerArgGluGlyLysAlaGlyTyrIleThrAspArgGlyArgAspLysValArgLeuLeuGluGlnThrThrAsnGlnGlnAlaGluLeuGluAlaPheAlaMetAlaValThrAsp  
3900  
TCAGGTCCAAAAGGCCAACATTATAGTAGACTCACAATATGTAATGGGAATAGTAGCAGGCCAACCAACAGAGTCAGAGAGTAAATAGTAAATCAAATCATAGAAGAAATGATAAAAAAG  
SerGlyProLysAlaAsnIleIleValAspSerGlnTyrValMetGlyIleValAlaGlyGlnProThrGluSerGluSerLysIleValAsnGlnIleIleGluGluMetIleLysLys  
4000  
GAAGCAATCTATGTTGCATGGGTCCCGACCCATAAAGGCATAGGAGGAAATCAGGAGGTAGATCACTTAGTAAGTCAGGGCATCAGACAAGTATTATCTAGAGAAAATAGAACCCGT  
GluAlaIleTyrValAlaTrpValProAlaHisLysGlyIleGlyGlyAsnGlnGluValAspHisLeuValSerGlnGlyIleArgGlnValLeuPheLeuGluLysIleGluProAla  
4100 4200  
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GlnGluGluHisGluLysTyrHisSerAsnValLysGluLeuSerHisLysPheGlyLeuProLysLeuValAlaArgGlnIleValAsnThrCysThrGlnCysGlnGlnLysGlyGlu  
4300  
GCTATACATGGGCAAGTAAATGCCAATTAGGCACCTTGCCAAATGGACTGCACACACTTAGAAGGAAAAATCATTATAGTAGCAGTACATGTTGCAAGTGGATTTATAGAAGCAGAAATC  
AlaIleHisGlyGlnValAsnAlaGluLeuGlyThrTrpGlnMetAspCysThrHisLeuGluGlyLysIleIleIleValAlaValHisValAlaSerGlyPheIleGluAlaGluVal  
4400  
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IleProGlnGluSerGlyArgGlnThrAlaLeuPheLeuLeuLysLeuAlaSerArgTrpProIleThrHisLeuHisThrAspAsnGlyAlaAsnPheThrSerGlnGluValLysMet  
4500  
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ValAlaTrpTrpIleGlyIleProArgThrPheGlyValProTyrAsnProGlnSerGlnGlyValValGluAlaMetAsnHisHisLeuLysAsnGlnIleSerGlyGlnGluGln  
4600  
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AlaAsnThrValGluThrIleValLeuMetAlaValHisCysMetAsnPheLysArgGlyGlyIleGlyAspMetThrProAlaGluLeuIleAlaMetValThrAlaGluGln  
4700 4800  
GAAATACAATCTCCCAAGAAAAATTCAAAATTTACAAAATTTTGGGTCTATTTCAGAGAAGGCGAGAGTACAGTGTGGAAAGGACCTGGGAACTACTGTGGAAGGGGACGGAGCA  
GluIleGlnPheLeuGlnAlaLysAsnSerLysLeuGlnAsnPheArgValTyrPheArgGluGlyArgAspGlnLeuTrpLysGlyProGlyGluLeuLeuTrpLysGlyAspGlyAla  
4900  
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ValIleValLysValGlyAlaAspIleLysIleIleProArgArgLysAlaLysIleIleLysAspTyrGlyGlyArgGlnGluMetAspSerGlySerAsnLeuGluGlyAlaArgGlu  
vlf > MetGluGluGlyLysArgTrpIleAlaValProThrTrpArgValProGlyAr  
5000  
GATGGAGAGGTGGCATAGCCTTATCAAGTATCTAAAATACAGAACAGGAGATCTAGAGAGGTTGCTATGTTCCCAACCATAAAGTGGGATGGGCGTGGTGGACTTCGACAGGGGTAAT  
AspGlyGluValAla\*\*\*  
gMetGluArgTrpHisSerLeuIleLysTyrLeuLysTyrArgThrGlyAspLeuGluLysValCysTyrValProHisHisLysValGlyTrpAlaTrpTrpThrCysSerArgValIle  
5100  
ATCCCATTAAGGAGAGAAAGTCTCTGGAGATACAGGCATCTGGAACCTAACACCAAGAAAAGGATGGCTCTCCTCCTATTCACTAAGACTAACTTGGTATACAGAAAAATCTGGAG  
ePheProLeuLysGlyGluSerHisLeuGluIleGlnAlaTyrTrpAsnLeuThrProGluLysGlyTrpLeuSerSerTyrSerValArgLeuThrTrpTyrThrGluLysPheTrpTh  
5200  
AGATGTTACCCAGACTGTGGGACTCCCTAATACATAGCACTTATTCTCTGCTTTACGGCAGCGCAAGTAAGAAGGCCATCAGAGCGGAAAAGCTATTATCTGCTGCAACTA  
rAspValThrProAspCysAlaAspSerLeuIleHisSerThrTyrPheSerCysPheThrAlaGlyGluValArgArgAlaIleArgGlyGluLysLeuLeuSerCysCysAsnTyrP  
5300 5400  
CCAAGGCCATAAGTACCAGGTACCGTCACTCCAGTTTCTGGCTTAGTGGTAGTGCAACAAAATGGCAGGCCCCAGAGAGACAATACCCAGGAAACAGTGGCGAAGAACTATCGGAG  
oGlnAlaHisLysTyrGlnValProSerLeuGlnPheLeuAlaLeuValValGlnGlnAsnGlyArgProGlnArgAspAsnThrThrArgLysGlnTrpArgArgAsnTyrArgAr  
vpx > MetAlaGlyProArgGluThrIleProProGlyAsnSerGlyGluGluThrIleGlyG

**FIGURE 2 (cont)**

5500

AGGCCCTTCGAGTGCGGTAGACAGGACGGTAGAAGCCATAAACAGAGAGGCAGTGAACCACCTCCCCGAGAGCCTATTTTCCAGGCTGGCAAAAGGTCCTGGAGATACTGGCATGATGAAC  
gGlyLeuArgValAlaArgGlnAspGlyArgSerHisGlnArgGlySerGluProProAlaProArgAlaThrPheProGlyValAlaLysValLeuGluLeuLeuAla\*\*\*  
luAlaPheGluTrpLeuAspArgThrValGluAlaIleAsnArgGluAlaValAsnHisLeuProArgGluLeuIlePheGlnValTrpGlnArgSerTrpArgTyrTrpHisAspGluG  
5600  
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InGlyMetSerIleSerTyrThrLysTyrArgTyrLeuCysLeuMetGlnLysAlaMetPheIleHisSerLysArgGlyCysThrCysLeuGlyGlyGlyHisGlyProGlyGlyTrpPA  
5700  
GATCAGGACCTCCCCCTCTCCCCCTCCAGGTCTAGTCTAATGACTGAAGACCAACAGAGTCTCCCCGGAGGATAGGACCCCACCGAGGGAGCCAGGGGATGAGTGGGTAATAGA AAC  
rgSerGlyProProProProProProProGlyLeuVal\*\*\*  
vpr > MetThrGluAlaProThrGluSerProProGluAspArgThrProProArgGluProGlyAspGluTrpValIleGluTh  
5800  
CCTGAGAGAGATAAAATAAGAAGCTTTAAGACCTTTGACCTCGCTTGCTAATTACTCTTGGCAACTATATCTATGCTAGACATGGAGACACCTTGAAGCGCCAGAGGGCTCATTAG  
rLeuArgGluIleLysEndGluAlaLeuLysHisPheAspProArgLeuLeuIleThrLeuGlyAsnTyrIleTyrAlaArgHisGlyAspThrLeuGluGlyAlaArgGlyLeuIleAr  
\*\*\*  
tat > MetGluThrProLeuLysAlaProGluGlySerLeug  
5900  
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qIleLeuGlnArgAlaLeuLeuLysHisPheArgAlaGlyCysGlyArgSerArgIleGlyGlnProArgGlyArgAsnProLeuSerAlaIleProThrProArgGlyMetArg\*\*\*  
lySerTyrAsnGluProSerSerCysThrSerGluGlnAlaAlaLaGlnGlyValSerProGlyAspGluIleLeuTyrGlnLeuTrpGlnProLeuGluAlaCysAspAsnL  
6100  
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ysCysTyrCysLysLysCysCysTyrHisCysGlnMetCysPheLeuAsnLysGlyLeuGlyIleTrpTyrGluArgLysGlyArgArgArgArgThrProLysLysThrLysAlaHisS  
rev > MetAsnGluArgAlaGluGluGluGluLeuArgArgLysLeuArgLeuIle  
SD  
CGTCTTCTGCATCAGACAAGTSGAGTAAGATGTGTGGTAGGAATCAACTATTTGTTGCCAGCTTGCTAGCTAGTCTGCTTAAATATATTGCTCCAATATGTGACTGTTTTCTATGGCGT  
erSerSerAlaSerAspLys  
ArgLeuLeuHisGlnThrAsn  
enw > MetCysGlyArgAsnGlnLeuPheValAlaSerLeuLeuAlaSerAlaCysLeuIleTyrCysValGlnTyrValThrValPheTyrGlyVa  
6300  
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6400  
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6500  
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gCysAsnSerThrThrAlaLysAsnThrThrSerThrProThrThrThrThrAlaAsnThrThrIleGlyGluAsnSerSerCysIleArgThrAspAsnCysThrGlyLeuGlyGl  
6700  
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6800  
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6900  
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7000  
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uAsnArgThrTyrIleTyrTrpHisGlyArgAspAsnArgThrIleIleSerLeuAsnLysPheTyrAsnLeuThrValHisCysLysArgProGlyAsnLysThrValValProIleTh  
7100  
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rLeuMetSerGlyLeuValPheHisSerGlnProIleAsnArgArgProArgGlnAlaTrpCysTrpPheLysGlyGluTrpLysGluAlaMetLysGluValLysLeuThrLeuAlaLy  
7300  
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sHisProArgTyrLysGlyThrAsnAspThrGluLysIleArgPheIleAlaLeuGlyGluArgSerAspProGluValAlaTyrMetTrpThrAsnCysArgGlyGluPheLeuTyrCy  
7400  
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sAsnMetThrTrpPheLeuAsnTrpValGluAsnArgThrAsnGlnThrGlnHisAsnTyrValProCysHisIleLysGlnIleIleAsnThrTrpHisLysValGlyLysAsnValTy  
7500  
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7600  
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7700  
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yPheLeuGlyPheLeuThrThrAlaGlyAlaAlaMetGlyAlaAlaSerLeuThrLeuSerAlaGlnSerArgThrLeuLeuAlaGlyIleValGlnGlnGlnGlnGlnLeuLeuAspVa  
7900  
GGTCAAGAGACAACAAGAAATGTTGCGACTGACCGCTCTGGGGAACAAAAAATCTCCAGGCAAGAGTCACTGCTATCGAGAAATACTTAAAGGACCAGGCGCACTAAATTCATGGGGATG  
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8000  
TGCGCTAGACAAGTCTGCCACACTACTGTACCTAGGTAATGACACCTTAAACCGCTGATTGGGAACAACATGCATCTGCGAGGAATGGGAGCAACCAATCCGCAACCTAGAGCAACATAT  
sAlaSerArgGlnValCysHisThrThrValProTrpValAsnAspThrLeuThrProTrpProAsnAsnMetThrTrpGlnGluTrpGluGlnArgileArgAsnLeuGluAlaAsnIl  
8100

FIGURE 2 (cont)

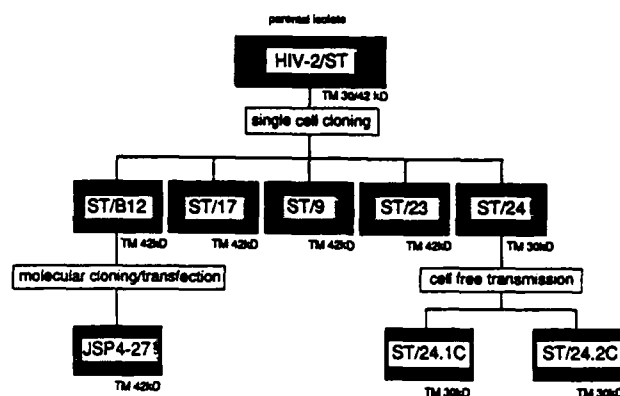
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      8100
CAGTGAAGTTTACAGCAGGCACAAATCCAGCAAGAAAAGAACATGTATGAACACAAAAATTAATAGCTGGGATGTTTTGGCAACTGGTTTGATTTAACCTCCTGGATCAAAATATAT
eSerGluSerLeuGluGlnAlaGlnIleGlnGlnGluLysAsnMetTyrGluLeuGlnLysLeuAsnSerTrpAspValPheGlyAsnTrpPheAspLeuThrSerTrpIleLysTyrIl
      8200
TCAGTATGGAGTTTATATAGTAGTAGGAATAATAGTTTAAAGAATAGTAATATATAGTACAAATGTTAAGTAGACTTAGAAAGGGCTATAGGCCTGTTTCTCTCCCGCCCGCTTA
eGlnTyrGlyValTyrIleValValGlyIleIleValLeuArgIleValIleTyrValValGlnMetLeuSerArgLeuArgLysGlyTyrArgProValPheSerSerProProAlaTy
      8300
CTTCCAACAGATCCATATCCCAAGGACCGGGGAACAGCCAGCCAGAGAAGAAACAGAAGACGTTGGAAACAGCGTTGGAGACAATGGTGGCCCTGGCCGATAAGATATATACATTT
rPheGlnGlnIleHisIleHisLysAspArgGluGlnProAlaArgGluGluThrGluGluAspValGlyAsnSerValGlyAspAsnTrpTrpProTrpProIleArgTyrIleHisPh
tat > SerIleSerThrArgThrGlyAsnSerGlnProGluLysLysGlnLysLysThrLeuGluThrAlaLeuGluThrIleGlyGlyProGlyArg***
rev > ProTyrProGlnGlyProGlyThrAlaSerGlnArgArgAsnArgArgArgTrpLysGlnArgTrpArgGlnLeuValAlaLeuAlaAspLysIleTyrThrPhe
      8400
CCTGATCCCGCAGCTGATTCCGCTCTTGAACAGACTATACAACATCTGCAGGGACTTACTATCCAGGAGCTTCCAGACCCCTCCAACCTAATCTCCAGAGCTTCCGGAGAGCATTGACAGC
eLeuIleArgGlnLeuIleArgLeuLeuAsnArgLeuTyrAsnIleCysArgAspLeuLeuSerArgSerPheGlnThrLeuGlnLeuIleSerGlnSerLeuArgArgAlaLeuThrAl
ProAspProProAlaAspSerProLeuGluGlnThrIleGlnHisLeuGlnGlyLeuThrIleGlnGluLeuProAspProProThrAsnLeuProGluSerSerIleAspSer
      8500
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aValArgAspTrpLeuArgPheAsnThrAlaTyrLeuGlnTyrGlyGlyGluTrpIleGlnGluAlaPheArgAlaPheAlaArgAlaThrGlyGluThrLeuThrAsnAlaTrpArgGl
SerGlnArgLeuAlaGluIle***
      nef > MetGlyAlaSerGlySerLysLysArgSerGluProSerArgGlyLeuArgGluArgLeuLeuGlnThrProGlyGluA
      8700
CTTCTGGGGACACTGGGACAAATTGGGAGGGGAATACTTGCGATCCCAAGAGGATCAGGCAGGGGGCAGAAATCGCCCTCCTGTGAGGGACGGCGGTATCAACAGGGAGATTTATGA
yPheTrpGlyThrLeuGlyGlnIleGlyArgGlyIleLeuAlaValProArgArgIleArgGlnGlyAlaGluIleAlaLeuLeu***
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      8800
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      8900
TAAGAGAAATGACATATAGGTTGGCAAGAGATATGTCACATTTGATAAAAAGAAAGGGGGGACTGGAAGGGCTGTATTACAGTGATAGGAGACGTAGAGTCTTAGACATATACTTAGAAA
euArgGluMetThrTyrArgLeuAlaArgAspMetSerHisLeuIleLysGluLysGlyGlyLeuGluGlyLeuTyrTyrSerAspArgArgArgArgValLeuAspIleTyrLeuGluL
      9100
AGGAAGAGGGAATAATTGGAGACTGGCAGAACTATCTCATGGACCAGGAGTAAGGTATCCAAAGTTCTTTGGGTGGTTATGGAAGCTAGTACCAGTAGATGTCCCAAGAGGGAGATG
ysGluGluGlyIleIleGlyAspTrpGlnAsnTyrThrHisGlyProGlyValArgTyrProLysPhePheGlyTrpLeuTrpLysLeuValProValAspValProGlnGluGlyAspA
      9200
ACAGTGAGACTCACTGCTTAGTGATCCAGCACAAACAAGCAGGTTTGATGACCCGATGGAGAAACATTAGTTTGGAGGTTTGACCCACGCTAGCTTTTAGCTACGAGGCCCTTTATTC
spSerGluThrHisCysLeuValHisProAlaGlnThrSerArgPheAspAspProHisGlyGluThrLeuValTrpArgPheAspProThrLeuAlaPheSerTyrGluAlaPheIleA
      9300
GATACCCAGAGGAGTTTGGGTACAAGTCAGGCCTGCCAGAGGATGAATGGAAGGCAAGACTGAAAGCAAGAGGATACCGTTTAGCTAAAAACAGGAACAGCTATACCTGGTCAGGGCAG
rgTyrProGluGluPheGlyTyrLysSerGlyLeuProGluAspGluTrpLysAlaArgLeuLysAlaArgGlyIleProPheSer***
      E 9400 E Spl Spl Spl
GAAGTAACTAACAGAAAACAGCTGAGACTGCAGGGACTTTCCAGAAAGGGGCTGTACAGGGGAGGACATGGGAGGACCGGTGGGGAACGCCCTCATACTTTCTGTATAAATGTACCC
U3<-+>R
      9600
GCTACTCGCATTGTATTACGTGCTCTGCGGAGAGGCTGGCAGATTGAGCCCTGGGAGGTTCTCTCCAGCACTAGCAGGTAGAGCCTGGGTGTTCCCTGCTAGACTCTCACCAGTGCTTG
GCCGGCACTGGGCAGAGCGCTCCAGCCTTGCTTGCTTAAAGACCTCTTAATAAGCTGCCAGTTAGAAGCA

```







**Figure 5. Nucleotide sequence variation in the fusion domain of cytopathic and noncytopathic HIV-2/ST strains.** 230 bps of PCR amplified envelope sequence are compared between JSP4-27 and four other HIV-2/ST strains. The boundaries of the amplified fragments are indicated. The sequence of both primers used to amplify the genomic DNA of ST/B12, ST/24, ST/24.1C and ST/24.2C is underlined, and the bp changes which were introduced to generate Bam HI and Pst I cloning sites are indicated. Nucleotide substitutions are shown with respect to the JSP4-27 sequence and amino acid sequence changes unique for the cytopathic and fusogenic ST/24 strains are bold-faced. Asterisks depict the Thr and Ala substitutions previously identified to distinguish JSP4-27 from most other cytopathic HIV-2 viruses. The number of M13 clones analyzed per HIV-2/ST strain is listed, with frequencies referring to the proportion of clones which have an identical sequence.





	Envelope Amino Acid Sequence Divergence						
	HIV-2/ST	HIV-2/ROD	HIV-2/ISY	HIV-2/NIH <sub>2</sub>	HIV-2/GH	SIV/MAC <sub>142</sub>	SIV/SM
HIV-2/ST		19%	17%	18%	16%	28%	28%
HIV-2/ROD	11%		20%	19%	18%	28%	28%
HIV-2/ISY	10%	11%		20%	19%	30%	29%
HIV-2/NIH <sub>2</sub>	12%	12%	13%		19%	28%	28%
HIV-2/GH	11%	12%	12%	15%		29%	29%
SIV/MAC <sub>142</sub>	23%	23%	24%	26%	24%		19%
SIV/SM	23%	22%	23%	23%	23%	15%	
Total Nucleotide Sequence Divergence							

<sup>a</sup> The percent nucleotide sequence divergence between HIV-2/ST (JSP4-27), HIV-2/ROD (22), HIV-2/ISY (17), HIV-2/GH (Hasegawa et al., in press), SIV<sub>MAC142</sub> (8), and SIV<sub>SM</sub> (25) is shown along with the percent amino acid sequence divergence of their envelope glycoproteins. Sequences were aligned pairwise, using the Microgenie computer software (Beckman).

**Table 1: Nucleotide and amino acid sequence divergence among HIV-2 and SIV viruses.**

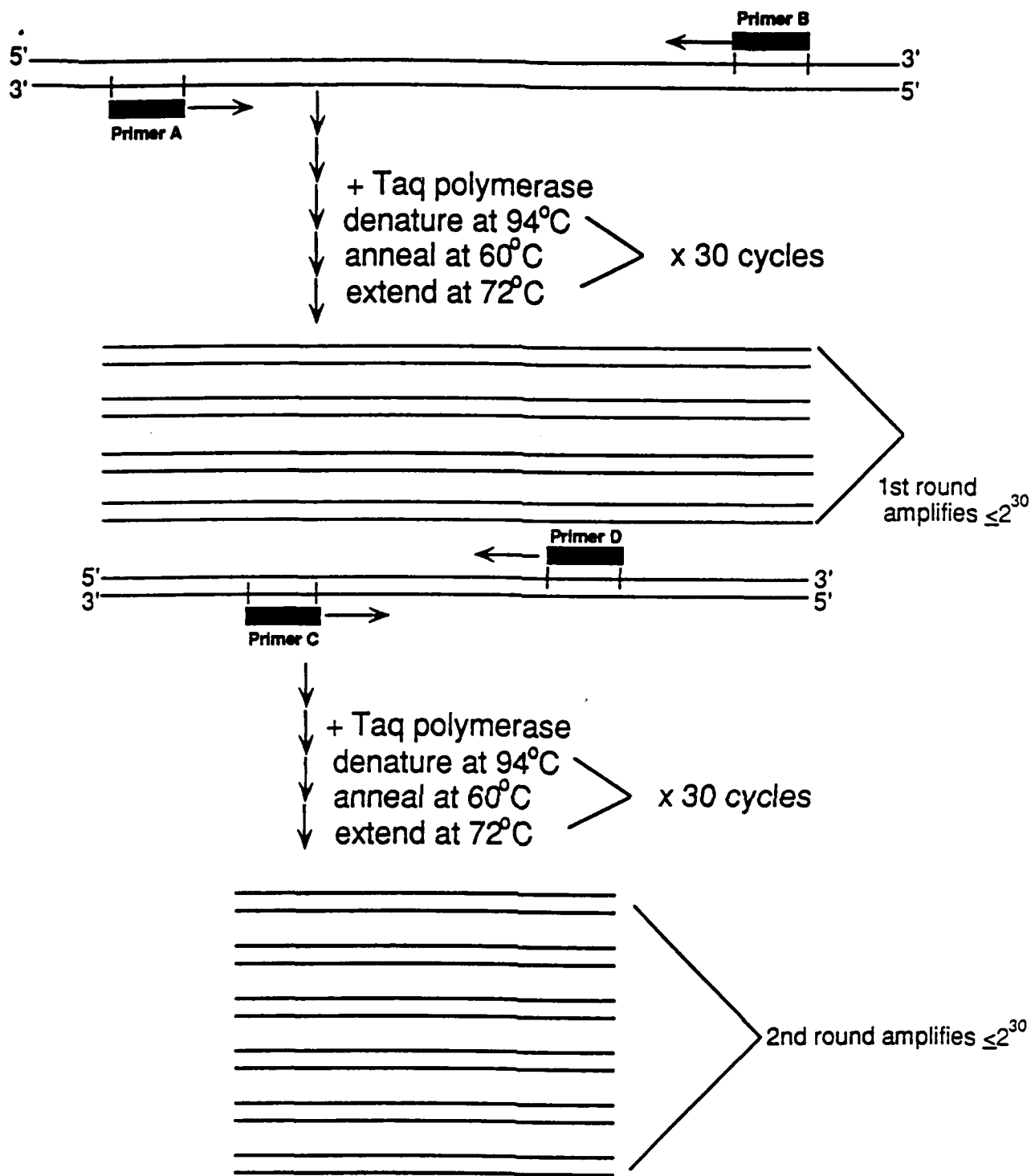
The % nucleotide sequence divergence between HIV-2/ST (JSP4-27), HIV-2/ROD, HIV-2/ISY, HIV-2/GH, SIV/MAC<sub>142</sub>, and SIV/SM is shown along with the % amino acid sequence divergence of their envelope glycoproteins. Sequences were aligned pairwise using the Microgenie Computer Software (Beckman).

Open reading frame	% Homology					
	ST/ROD		ST/ISY		ROD/ISY	
	Nucleotide	Amino acid	Nucleotide	Amino acid	Nucleotide	Amino acid
LTR	91.5		91.4		91.8	
<i>gag</i>	91.1	92.0	90.7	89.1	90.3	89.5
<i>pol</i>	91.2	91.4	91.2	91.4	91.2	91.7
<i>vif</i>	91.5	88.4	92.4	91.2	92.2	85.6
<i>vpx</i>	89.3	85.7	92.6	90.2	88.4	87.5
<i>vpr</i>	89.9 <sup>a</sup>	80.0 <sup>a</sup>	89.8 <sup>a</sup>	84.8 <sup>a</sup>	93.3	89.5
<i>tat</i>	86.7	75.4	88.7	78.5	90.5	80.8
<i>rev</i>	82.0	85.0	ND <sup>b</sup>	ND <sup>b</sup>	ND <sup>b</sup>	ND <sup>b</sup>
<i>env</i>	85.5	81.4	86.0	83.0	84.8	80.4
<i>nef</i>	86.1	78.9	85.8	77.7	87.0	78.5
Overall % homology	89.5		89.9		89.3	

<sup>a</sup> An in-frame stop codon is present in the HIV-2/ST *vpr* open reading frame.

<sup>b</sup> Meaningful comparison of the HIV-2/ISY *rev* gene (17) with the corresponding *rev* genes of HIV-2/ST (JSP4-27) and HIV-2/ROD (22) was not possible because of considerable length differences between their sequences. ND, Not done.

**Table 2: Sequence homologues among virus-specific genes of three different HIV-2 proviruses.** Nucleotide and amino acid sequence homologues among different viral genes of HIV-2/ST (JSP4-27), HIV-2/ROD, and HIV-2/ISY are shown in comparison. A meaningful comparison of the HIV-2/ISY *rev* gene to the corresponding *rev* genes of HIV-2/ST and HIV-2/ROD was not possible, because of considerable length differences between their sequences. An asterisk indicates the presence an in-frame stop codon in the HIV-2/ST *vpr* open reading frame.



**Figure 7. "Nested" polymerase chain reaction primer amplification as an approach to increase sensitivity of retroviral genome detection.**

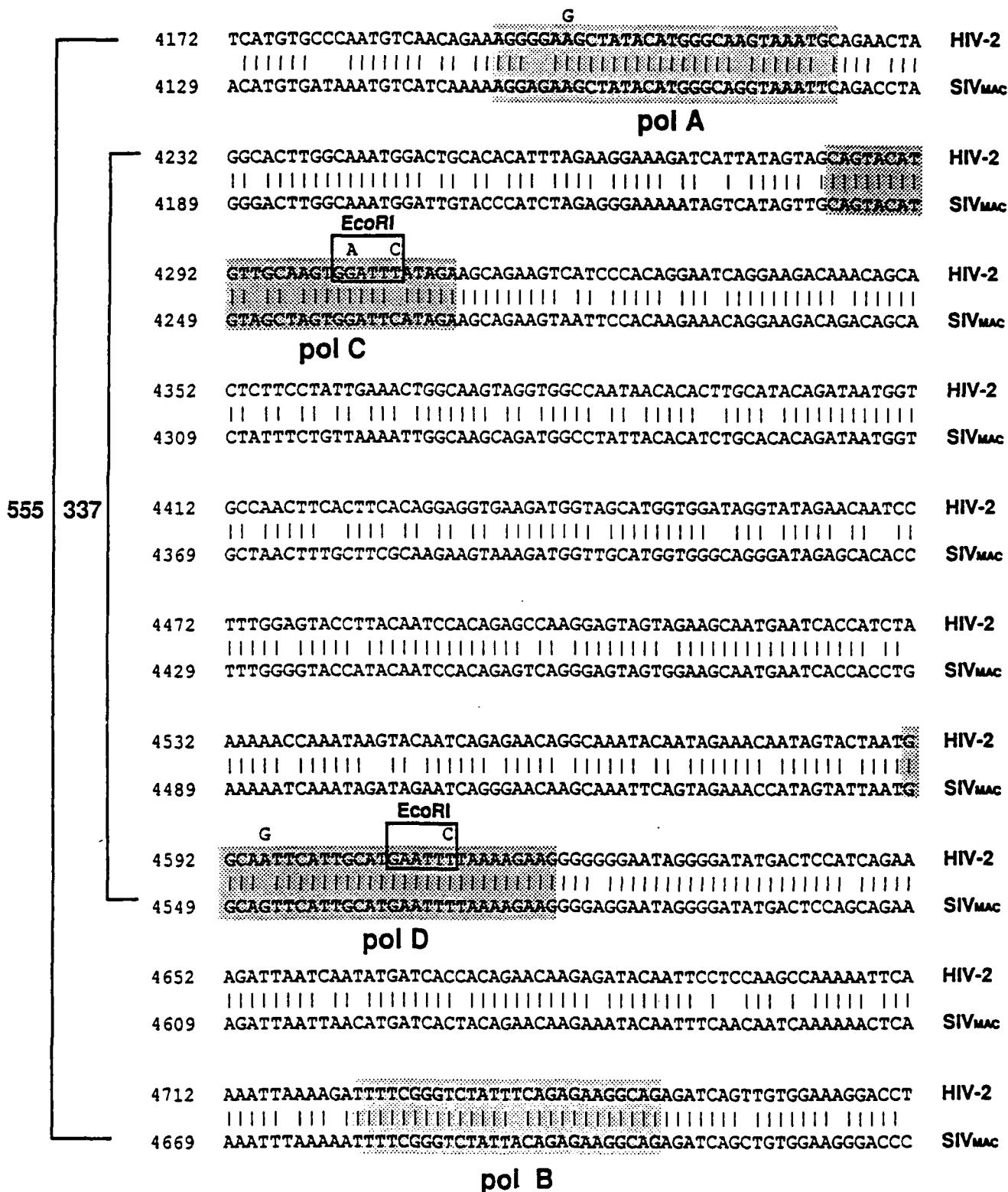


Figure 8. Nested HIV-2/SIV<sub>mac</sub> pol primers with cloning enzyme sites. Outer (pol A and D) and inner (pol B and C) oligonucleotide primer sequences are shown in shaded areas and are derived from best match sequence of HIV-2 and SIV<sub>mac</sub>. EcoRI sites were introduced within the inner primer sequences to facilitate cloning of the amplified product. The size of the outer and inner amplification products are 555bp and 337bp, respectively.

AGCAGAAAGTCATACCTAGGGAAACAGGAAAGAAACGGCAAGTTTCTATTAAAAATACT	SIV <sub>AGMTYO</sub>
-----A--T--ACA-----CT--A--C--C--G--G--GT--GC	SIV <sub>AGM386</sub>
-----A--C--ACA-----CT--A--C--C--C--GC--G--GT--GC	SIV <sub>AGM384</sub>
G-----G-----CAA-----CT--A--C--C--G-----T--GC	SIV <sub>AGM391</sub>
GAGTAGATGGCCCTATAACACAGTTACACACAGACAATGGGCCTAACTTTACCTCCCAAGA	SIV <sub>AGMTYO</sub>
C--C-----C--T-----CC--G--T-----TA-----AG--GC--	SIV <sub>AGM386</sub>
C--C-----C--C-----C--G--T-----TA--C-----TAG--GC--	SIV <sub>AGM384</sub>
A--C--G-----C--TG--A--A-----T--G--T-----C--T-----AG--C--	SIV <sub>AGM391</sub>
AGTGGCAGCAATATGTTGGTGGGGAATAATTGAACATACAAACAGGTATACCATATAACCC	SIV <sub>AGMTYO</sub>
---A-----T--C--C-----G--A-----C--TTT--GG--C--C-----	SIV <sub>AGM386</sub>
---A-----T--T--C-----A--G--C-----TTT--GG--C--C-----	SIV <sub>AGM384</sub>
---A-----T-----G-----A-----TTT--GG--C--C-----	SIV <sub>AGM391</sub>
CCAATCTCAAGGATCAATAGAAAGCATGAACAAGCAATTAAAGAGATAATTGGGAAAAT	SIV <sub>AGMTYO</sub>
---AG--G---GT--G---TCT-----G-----A--C--A--AC-----	SIV <sub>AGM386</sub>
---AG--G---GT--G---TCT-----G-----A--C--A--AC-----	SIV <sub>AGM384</sub>
---GAG-----GT--G---TC-----T-----T--A--AC--G---	SIV <sub>AGM391</sub>
AAGAGATGATTGCCAATATACAGAGGCAGTACTGAT	SIV <sub>AGMTYO</sub>
T-----GCAG--AGATTG--AA-----CA--A--	SIV <sub>AGM386</sub>
T-----GCAG--AGATTG--AA-----CA--A--	SIV <sub>AGM384</sub>
T-----A---GCAG--AGATT--AA-----G--T--	SIV <sub>AGM391</sub>

Figure 9. Nucleotide sequence comparison of pol gene segments of East (SIV<sub>AGMTYO</sub>) and West (SIV<sub>AGM386, 384, 391</sub>) African green monkey viruses. Nucleotide sequences were determined by the dideoxy chain termination method from three West African SIV<sub>AGM</sub> virus strains (sabeus subspecies) and are shown compared to an East African strain (SIV<sub>AGMTYO</sub>).

SIV <sub>AGM</sub> SAB-1	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> SAB-2	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> SAB-3	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> SAB-4	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> TYO	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> 155	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> VER-2	SIV <sub>AGM</sub> GRI-1	SIV/MND	SIV/MAC	SIV/SM	HIV-2	HIV-1
96.7	96.7	98.9	93.5	80.4	78.3	81.5	80.4	69.6	69.6	69.6	68.5	70.7
---	---	96.7	94.6	80.4	79.3	81.5	80.4	69.6	69.6	69.6	68.5	69.6
---	---	---	93.5	79.3	79.3	80.4	81.5	69.6	70.7	70.7	69.6	70.7
---	---	---	---	79.3	78.3	80.4	79.3	72.8	70.7	70.7	69.6	69.6
---	---	---	---	---	92.4	93.5	80.4	67.4	62.0	62.0	60.9	62.0
---	---	---	---	---	---	94.6	79.3	67.4	65.2	65.2	62.0	62.0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	81.5	69.6	67.4	66.3	63.0	64.1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	68.5	63.0	63.0	62.0	69.6
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	64.1	64.1	62.0	64.5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	95.7	90.2	63.0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	92.4	65.2
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	62.0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Figure 10. Percent amino acid sequence identity in a 279bp PCR amplified pol region of primate lentiviruses. The sequences of the four West African SIV<sub>AGM</sub> viruses are indicated by SIV<sub>AGM</sub><sup>SAB-1-4</sup>. The four SIV<sub>AGM</sub><sup>VER-2</sup> viruses differ from each other by 1-7% but from East African viruses by 19-22% and from isolates of HIV-1 and HIV-2 by 29-31%.

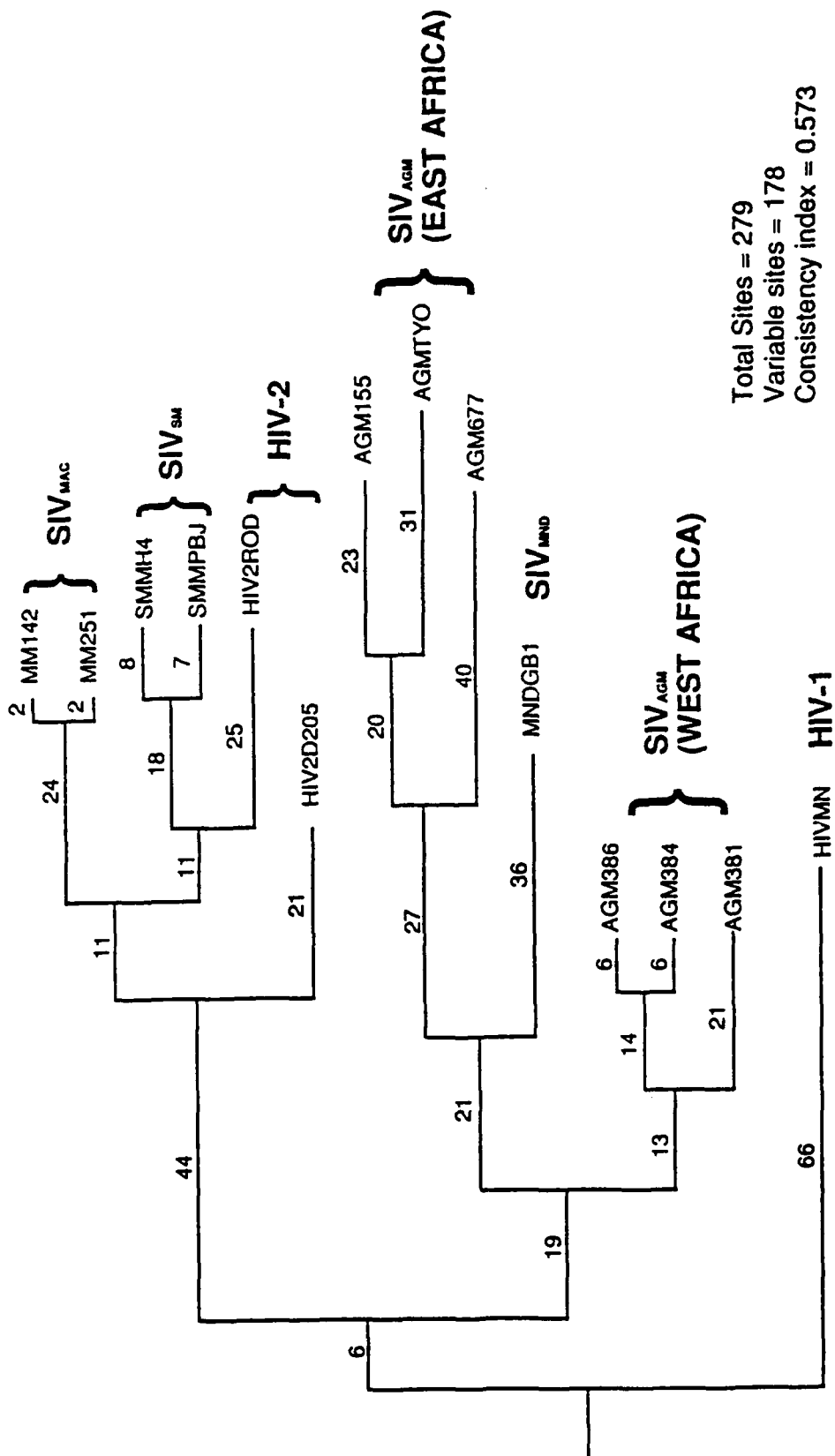
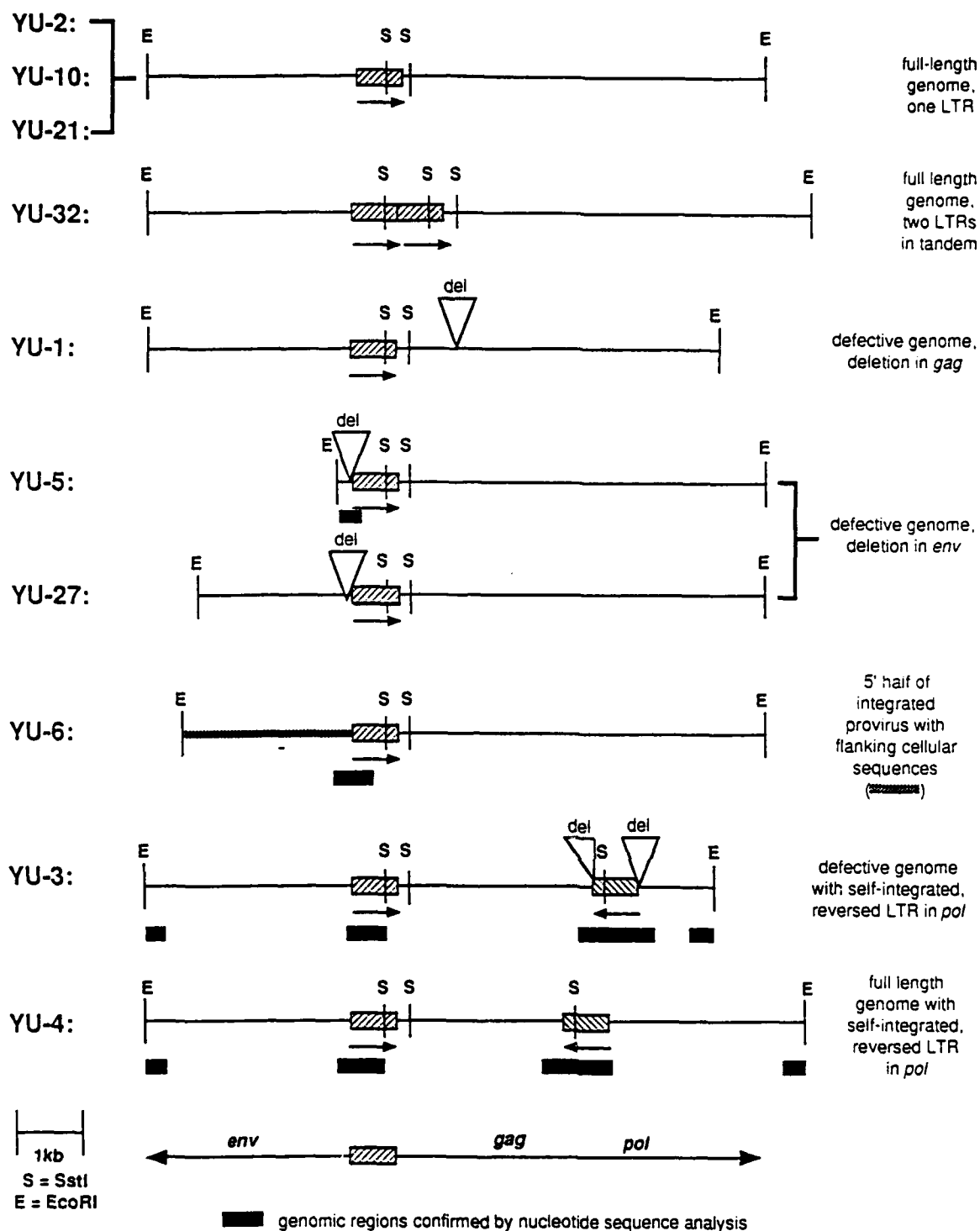


Figure 11. Phylogenetic tree analysis for human and simian immunodeficiency viruses.





**Figure 12. Molecular proviral clones of HIV-1 derived from uncultured brain DNA of a patient with AIDS dementia.** Ten HIV-1 proviral clones from a lambda phage genomic library of  $8 \times 10^6$  recombinant phage were identified and mapped. Because the predominant viral forms in this uncultured brain DNA specimen were in unintegrated circular form, a single cutter, EcoRI, was selected as the cloning enzyme. Four of the 10 clones were full-length with either one or two LTRs (YU-2, 10, 21, 32), one clone was partial but integrated into genomic DNA (YU-6), and the remaining 6 clones were defective by virtue of deletions or rearrangements (YU-1, 3, 4, 5, 27).

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